Political and General News.

Public Meeting.

At a very large and respectable meeting of the citizens of the city and county of Erie, assembled at the Court House on the evening of the 28th Feb., 1852. On motion, P. Sennett was appointed President, Joseph H. Williams, John H. Fullerton, William Nicholson, Wm. Hoskinson were appointed Vice Presidents, and Charles M. Tibbals and Isaac Rosenzweig secretaties.

The meeting was addressed at length by Messrs. Cutler, Lane, Galbraith, Babbitt, Caughey, King, Grant, Marshall and Taylor, after which the following preamble and resolution were adopted:

Whereas the Franklin Canal Company has been engaged in the construction of its railroad for more than a year past, and has expended in the same a large sum of money, and the work is advancing rapidly toward completion, and whereas the said railroad is of the utmost importance and advantage to the interest, growth and prosperity of our city and county, and without the connection of which the Sunbury and Erie railroad must, if not altogether fail, be greatly delayed and the value of its stock seriously lessened. Therefore,

Resolved, That this meeting is opposed to any legislation calculated to interfere with the immediate completion of the Franklin Canal Company's Railroad.

Signed by the officers, and ordered to be published and forwarded to our members at Harrisburg.

THE LOST CHILD—IS HE WHITE OR INDIAN!—VERY SINGULAR.—This case was called before the Court Commissioner Buttrick on Friday last, and on motion of the attorney of the claimant, Mr. Crary, the trial was posponed till the 12th instant.

This is one of the most singular instances on record. Two mothers claiming the same child; and what adds to the singularity, one is a white woman and the other an Indian. The great case is exciting a great deal of public interest. Public opinion is divided. The majority, however, believe it is the white woman's child. For ourself, we are not decided in opinion. The child is as dark as a full Indian child very nearly. But its features, eyes, hands, and feet, and every other form denote the white child; besides it so resembles the daughter of Mr. Patridge, two years older, that almost every beholder pronounces them brother and sister. Mr. and Mrs. Patridge are of quite dark complexion, and the girl is but little lighter than the claimed child.

We visited them while they were together, and but two other individuals in the room. We said to him, "My lad, come and shake hands with me," and he came and reached out his hand. We lifted him on our knee and asked him if he was afraid, and he shook his head. We told him to turn with his face toward the window, and he did so. Everything we said to him seemed to be as readily understood as by any ordinary child of six years. An elderly gentleman came into the room, and being an intent on the child, the common courtesy of asking him to a seat was unthinkingly omitted. The child voluntarily, without a word being said, carried a chair and placed it by him so that he could seat himself. He conversed readily with those who can speak Menomonee, they talking English and the child Menomonee.

On the other hand, the Indian agent, Mr. Lawe, a gentleman of the first standing, the Catholic Minister—a missionary to the Menomonee nation—Mr. Powel, Mr. Cowen, and other Indian traders, and the whole indian tribe, insist vehemently that it belongs to the Indian woman. The character of the testimony, together with the family appearance of the child, are of great weight. The child says, when asked why it don't speak English, that his mother threatened to skin him if he spoke English in a white man's house. It is placed in Sheriff Cooley's custodey till the trial, subject to the visits of both parties, claiming it. Mrs. Patridge has been there, washed it all over, cleaned it up thoroughly, and dressed it, and says she thinks it is her child.

Altogether, it is a most singular affair. History contains no parallel. It is a question that seems hard to decide. The sympathy and the opinion formed outside of the legal rule, seemed to favor Mr. Patridge. But the law seems to favor the Indians. The trial will be deeply interesting.—*Oshkosh Dem.*

THE SEA SERPENT CAPTURED AT LAST!—Capt. Chas. Seabury, of the whaleship *Monongahala*, of New Bedford, in a letter to the New York *Tribune*, dated at sea, February 6th, declares that he has captured the sea-serpent. He was taken in latitude 3 deg. 10 min. south, and longitude 131 deg. 50 min. west, with the harpoon. After being struck with the iron he descended some 6,000 feet, where the monster remained fifteen hours, but at last came to the surface and expired. He was then taken alongside the vessel, skinned and cut up, and his head and bones preserved. The Captain states that the "serpent" was of the masculine gender: 103 feet 7 inches in length: 19 feet 1 inch around the neck: 21 feet 6 inches around the shoulders: and the largest part of the body, which appeared somewhat distended, 49 feet 11 inches. The head was long and flat, with ridges; the bones of the lower jaw separate; the tongue and its sead like the head of a heart. The tail ran nearly to a point, on the end of which was a flat firm cartilage. The back was black, turning brown on the sides, then yellow, and on the centre of its belly a narrow white streak two thirds of its length: there was also scattered over the body dark spots. On examining the skin he found, to his surprise, that the body was covered with *blubber* like that of the whale, but it was only 4 inches thick. The oil was clear as water and burned nearly as fast as spirits of turpentine.—There were 94 teeth in the jaws, very sharp, all pointing back, and as large as the thumb, at the gum, but firmly set. It had two "spout holes," and breathed "very much like a whale."

INDUSTRIOUS TRIO IN CALIFORNIA.—Near Forman's ranch, about ten miles south of this place, may be seen daily working in a gluch, with commendable perseverance and energy, a trio composed of two American ladies and a gentleman. While the gent picks and shovels, one of the ladies—whose costume is a silk dress covered with a man's coat, as near, we suppose, as she can imitate the Bloomer in the mines—carries the dirt to the rocker, where the other lady sits working with all the assiduity of an old miner. We wish California was well supplied with such ladies as these, who, instead of harrassing their husbands about "women's rights" and "Turkish costumes," would wash as well as rock the *cradle*.

RAILROAD OBSTRUCTIONS.—The Cleveland Plaindealer gives an account of an attempt to throw off the train on the C. C. & C. R. R. by placing a huge pole across the track. The obstruction appeared large enough to have thrown off the entire train. The probable consequences are awful to think of. Fresh tracks were found diverging from the spot to the left. The Conductor with the Engineer and several others, followed up the trail, and in a little one story house, a quarter of a mile from the road, found a fellow whose boots precisely fitted the said tracks. A resposible person was left to watch him, and the train proceeded in safety to Galion, where proper measures were taken to bring the supposed scoundrel to justice.

THE NEW MORMON CAPITAL.—A writer in the National Intelligencer states that Brigham Young and his associates being well satisfied, that upon a fair representation of facts to government by the returned judges, the civil authority of the territory would be withdrawn from their control, they have with their usual cunning, located the capitol in one of the most out-of-the-way, inconvenient, and unsafe districts to be found within the limits of the Territory, with the view not only to expose the officers who might be sent there to Indian hostilities, but to remove them so far from Salt Lake City as to prevent their taking cognizance of crimes and offences there, over which the church claims to exercise exclusive jurisdiction. Recent letters from Salt Lake City announce these as the reasons for the act.

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD.—The Chicago Tribune announces that all of the Chicago branch of the Illinois Central Railroad is to be let to contractors in a few days; and also the branch from Peru to Cairo, as soon as the lettings can be advertised. The company has negotiated the sale of $4,000,000 of its bonds at par in New-York, which the Tribune says will be sufficient, in connection with its private credit, even should no more bonds be sold, to complete the entire work. It will be recollected that Congress donated about 2,730,000 acres of public lands for the construction of this important road, and the Government still retains upwards of 3,000,000 of acres in the same district. The lands donated have been selected, and are recognized as devoted to the railroad enterprise at the Land Office.

Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA.

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 6, 1852.

Lectures on Anatomy.

We learn that Dr. Francis, of New York, is now in our city, for the purpose of delivering a course of Lectures on Anatomy, Physiology, &c. The Dr. has lectured upon these sciences in all the principal cities of the Union with marked success, and we have no doubt he will more than realize the good opinion we have formed of his attainments from the flattering testimonials with which he comes among us. His first lecture, which will be a free one, will be this evening. The time and place to be designated by bills.

Buffalo Charter Election.

The charter election in Buffalo, on Tuesday last, resulted in a complete whig victory, that party having elected their Mayor, Barton, and a majority of the council. Among the successful whigs, is Mr. J. C. Harrison, who is elected Alderman in the 4th ward, where there is usually two or three hundred democratic majority. The *Courier* says the battle was hotly contested, but the Democrats drove all *before* them.

☞ A CHANGE.—The Commercial *Advertiser*, of this city, very uncerimoniously changed hands on Monday last, Mr. Jos. S. M. Young having been *ejected* from, and A. W. Caughey, Esq *injected* into the Editorial chair of that establishment. The modus operandi of this feat of those who have had the weight of their fingers upon the concern we are not advised, and we are not sure it concerns us very materially. The retired swears terribly—equal, it is supposed, to that "army in Flanders," we read of. He threatens to have another establishment in blast before many weeks, and then he promises that the "guilty perpetrators of this outrage will suffer for their base ingratitude."

The $500,000 Subscribed.

By the following letter from the Commissioners of Erie County, recently on a visit to Philadelphia, to Daniel L. Miller, Esq., President of the Sunbury and Erie Road, it will be seen that Erie county has redeemed her pledge of $500,000 to this great and important enterprise:

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 21, 1852.

Dear Sir:—We have just received your letter, during our absence from home on official business, asking us to make a county subscription to the stock of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company.

We are convinced that the construction of the proposed Railroad will be of vast importance to the county of Erie. The arguments in favor of a subscription we consider unanswerable. The form and condition suggested meet our approval.

We therefore respond to your letter at once, agreeing to subscribe for the County of Erie, Two Hundred Thousand Dollars. Immediately on our return, we will consummate this agreement, and forward to you a copy under the seal of the county. We feel that in doing so, we are promoting the best interests of our constituents, and have no doubt that the stock will prove a profitable investment.

We are your friends,

(Signed) SIMEON STEWART,
THOS. DUNN, Jr.,
RODNEY COLE,
County Commissioners of Erie County.

To Daniel L. Miller, Jr., President Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company.

As the Commissioners have returned, we presume they have, ere this, redeemed their pledge, and that Erie County and the city stand upon the books of the company for $500,000. We have every confidence that there will be $100,000 more subscribed here by our citizens, which will make $600,000 for Erie county alone. Pretty well for Erie!

The following, which we find in one of our exchanges, shows how the enterprise is looked upon along the line of the road.

LOCK HAVEN, Feb. 23, 1852.

D. L. Miller, Jr., President Sunbury and Erie Railroad: *Sir;—A vote was this day taken* by the citizens of Lockhaven for and against a subscription by the said borough of twenty thousand dollars, and by the county of one hundred thousand dollars to the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company, which resulted as follows:

For the subscription 102 Against subscription 8

☞ Among the best evidence that Erie is improving, and consequently no longer entitled to the appellation of "sleepy borough," is the fact that there is not at present a business stand vacant. There never was such a demand for stores, dwellings and shops as now. Scarcely a day passes that we are not asked for information in regard to renting, and we do believe that if there were fifty vacant stores, they would all be filled ere the summer business commences.

☞ We see that the bill chartering the Erie Gas Company has passed both branches and become a law. It is stated in one of our city cotemporaries, and we have heard the fact mentioned otherwise, that gentlemen stand ready to take the necessary amount of stock and commence the work. We presume, therefore, that we shall soon be enlightened.

☞ The baseness of the *Pennsylvanian* is only equalled by its medacity. When the fate of Mr. Buchanan is concerned, it cannot tell the truth, even if the truth would answer its purposes better. For instance, in noticing the failure of the conferees of Erie and Crawford to agree upon a Senatorial delegate, it states that our Conferees "assembled by themselves and elected a citizen of Erie." We may not quote the sentence exactly, for we do so from memory, but the impression evidently intended to be conveyed is, that we withdrew from the Conference and went into another room and there consummated the election of Mr. Lowry. Now, so far from this being the fact, the Conferees from Erie remained in session in the room the Conferees had occupied all the afternoon, while the Crawford Conferees withdrew to the Bar-room, or Barn, we do not know which, and there, without any organization at all, as we have reason to believe, agreed upon their man McArthur. But we waste words; for, to expect justice from the *Pennsylvanian*, under its present imbecile management, would be to expect impossibilities; therefore we have no idea it will retract its falsehood

☞ Opposition is the life of trade—that is an old axiom—and we guess it is going to be the life of music.—We have the Swedish Nightingale, and the Black Swan, and now we are to have the "Wild Owl—too-who too-who!!" An Indian woman said to possess great vocal powers, is soon to make a debut as a vocalist. The Adrian Expositor says: "We understand there is an Ottawa Indian lady in Michigan, who will soon take the field of song under the title of 'Wild Owl,' who can hoot down all her illustrious predecessors!"

☞ The Fredonia *Censor* comes to us enlarged to a mammoth size, and otherwise improved typographically. It could not well be improved as a *news*-paper, though in politics it is sadly out at the elbow.

☞ Col. John R. Harmon, late of the Detroit *Free Press*, has been elected Mayor of Detroit by nearly 600 majority. Last year the whigs carried that city by about 300. This makes up for Buffalo, besides Col. H. is one of the best fellows in the Peninsular State.

☞ The Buffalo "*Queen City*," has recently donned a new dress, but its practices are still very bad. The other day it stole our article on "Flogging in the Navy," body and breeches, without as much as saying, thank you! The "Queen" must learn better manners, or it will be excluded from decent society.

☞ The Fredonia *Censor* is out for Horace Greely, of the *Tribune*, as the whig candidate for Governor of New York. Horace would make a bird of an Executive.

☞ CHANGING NAMES.—A bill has passed the House of Representatives of this State, giving authority to Courts of Common Pleas to change the names of persons. It provides that the Court designated shall have the power to change names upon the payment of $10, of which sum $2 shall go to the prothonotary, and the $8 to the State, and after the decree is made, the Court shall order its publication for four successive weeks, in two newspapers published in the county of the resident, or person having his name so changed.

"Still Harping on my Daughter."

The Crawford *Democrat* is still harping on the "*Observer*," "Senatorial delegate," and the sayings and doings of the Crawford county Conferees. The trouble appears to be that the *Observer* does not please the conferees any more than it pleases the *Democrat*. This is unfortunate, very; but still we do not see any remedy! We have been using the quill long enough to ascertain that we can't please every body; and we have seen enough of mankind to know that there are not two who understand matters just exactly alike, especially where it is their interest not to so understand—hence we were prepared for the disapprobation of the political satellites who revolve around, what the Easton *Argus* very naughtily called, the "Crawford county whiskey inspector." But to the specific point that does not please the autocrats of the Crawford Democracy. We said last week, that *Crawford county*,—not her conferees—claimed the right to instruct the delegate from this senatorial district over the heads of the Democracy of Erie. This the *Democrat* denies on the assertion of its friends, the Conferees. Now, we have not the least doubt the said conferees are as honest as circumstances will admit in this denial; nevertheless we think those gentlemen are a little too fast, and if they have the capacity to solve exactly the mathematical problem of how many blue beans it takes to make five, we can show it. In a communication which appeared in the *Democrat* and in the *Sentinel* last week, over the *names* of the Crawford Conferees, we find the following pertinent admission:

Mr. Derickson replied, that the Democracy of Crawford *not only claimed the Delegate at the present time*, but they *also claimed the right*, in accordance with long established custom, of *designating their choice of a man.—This they had done at their recent county meeting, having chosen Wm. McArthur* with great unanimity, and the Conferees of Crawford *now asked the concurrence* of their Erie colleagues as a right and as an act of Justice.

That, we take it, Messrs. *Democrat*, Derickson, Coulter and Tinny, is a pretty strong admission of part of our *assertion; and to prove the whole* of it we have but to refer, in connection therewith, to the *manner* of "designating your choice of a man" "at the recent county meeting" We recommend, says the county *meeting*, Wm. McArthur, "with *instructions to support Hon.* James Buchanan for President." Crawford county "not only *claims* the delegate at the present time" but "she also claims the right of designating the man;" *therefore*, says Derickson, Coulter and Tinny, we nominate *Wm. McArthur*; and Wm. McArthur, as will be seen above, is already instructed for Mr. Buchanan. Now, if this does not demonstrate, as plain as a pike-staff, that "Crawford not only claimed the delegate, but also the preposterous right of instructing him over the heads of the Democracy of Erie," then there is no meaning in *words* or no truth in acts. Hence it will be *seen*, that if the Crawford "*conferees consider* they have been misrepresented by the Erie *Observer*," they are very *in*-consider-ate men. The fact is, we said nothing about them at all—we said Crawford county! If they are Crawford county—or if *they considered themselves* the embodiment of Crawford county sentiment in the Conferees meeting—then, according to the resolutions of the meeting that delegated to them their *powers, in conjunction* with their own statement, our assertion was correct.

There are one or two other matters we are called upon to notice, and then we will turn the matter over without further comment. The *Democrat says* the "Crawford Conferees only claimed the, right to *select* the Delegate, and expressly declared, that if the Erie Conferees *would vote* with them for Mr. McArthur, they would not *ask for instructions*." You don't say so!—why, how liberal! especially when Mr. McArthur was already instructed as strong as language could *do it*. Again, the *Democrat* says, we, as a delegate "*declared we would vote* for no man as a delegate whom we did not know to be opposed *to Mr. Buchanan* for the Presidency; thereby arrogating *to himself* the right of dictating to the Democracy of *Crawford county*." Well, now, what an arrogant chap *we've got to be*, to be sure! Almost as much so as an "Aid to the Governor," or a militia Major. But seriously, we made no such declaration; on the contrary, we *repeatedly said we would vote* for McArthur cheerfully if *they would vote for a resolution* withdrawing the instructions he was hampered down with, and Mr. McArthur, we take it, is a Buchanan man! There are one or two other misrepresentations in the *Democrat* but we pass them over.

The *Democrat*, in conclusion, thinks that if we had looked into the last *Sentinel or Democrat*, of that place, (both of which we received *before our paper was* published,) we would have been 'advised' of the subsequent proceedings of the Crawford Conferees. Why, bless your simple soul, *Colonel*, we have long since ceased to put any reliance upon the statements of either the *Democrat* or the *Sentinel*.

☞ NEW SENATOR FROM CALIFORNIA.—No political news has been received from the Pacific State that has pleased us more, than the election of Col. J. B. WELLER, formerly of Ohio, to the United States Senate from California. Col Weller is emphatically the best abused Democrat we know of, and hence his election is a thing to rejoice over. He served very creditably in the lower House of Congress from Ohio—he behaved very gallantly in the Mexican war—he made a most capital run for *Governor in Ohio, in* 1848, and as the head of the Mexican Boundary Commission, he was subjected to the most vindictive persecution by the harpies that hung around the Cabinet of Gen. Taylor. Having "come up under great tribulation," we have no doubt he will make a most excellent Senator.

☞ "MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN."—The coroner of Philadelphia held and Inquest on Monday night last, upon the body of an unknown colored man, who had died from small pox by the road side. He was without shoes and very scantily clad, and had been wandering about for several days previous, insane from the effects of the fever, but the fear of contagion had prevented the neighbors from affording him any relief. Like the Leper of old, he was shut out from the sympathy or charity of his kind, and finally perished by the road side!

☞ About thirty women were baptised on Sunday afternoon in the North River, at the foot of Twenty-ninth street New York. There were several hundred persons present to witness the ceremony. The baptised were led into the water up to their waists, although the ice was floating on every side of them. They must have strong faith, we think.

☞ Hannah Hawkins desired to become "food for the fishes," in New York last week, and so she jumped from one of the Williamsburg ferry boats into the muddy waters of the East River. Some people who were watching her, fished her out, and she was taken home, where she promised "to bide her time" patiently.

ANOTHER NEW NAME.—Whigery has been beaten as the "Whig" party, the "Union" party, and now the N. O. *Bulletin* speaks of the "Constitutional Union Whig party of the State of Louisiana." This last disguise will prove them no better than before, and the N. O. *Courier* inquires if all our political parties are not constitutional. If so why speak of the Constitutional Union Whig party? Just as though all parties were not constitutional. The Whigs are ever fond of pompous names. They now have stretched themselves out into the Constitutional Whig party.

☞ HOW IT WAS PASSED.—One of our exchanges says, in relating the origin of the famous Maine Liquor Law, that it passed the Lower House of the Maine Legislature with the confident expectation that it would be *defeated* in the Senate. As the members of the Senate did not like the idea of assuming the responsibility of *defeating* the bill, they passed it for the Governor to vote. When it was brought to Governor Hubbard, he expressed his indignation at their folly in passing such a bill; saying, "If they want the bill, let them have it," he put his official signature to it, and it became the famed Maine Law.

☞ We have the *Genesee Farmer* for March. It is a fine number, replete with matters of interest to the class to whose benefit it is expressly devoted.

☞ We see that *petitions* have been presented in the *Senate by Mr. Cooper for the* construction of a dry dock at *this point*. We hope the move will succeed, but can hardly expect it will at present.

"The Mania for Office."

If there is an evil from which we fear that the American republic can ever take any thing of detriment, says the Columbia *Star*, that evil is the mania for office.—Whoever can carry the vote of a township by a clap-trap cry of poverty or a pitiable appeal for sympathy, at once imagines himself fit to be Governor. Whoever can drive a despicable game of trading off the vote of his township (*provided*, always, nevertheless, that he can carry that vote) in a county convention so as to buy for himself enough delegates to secure a little crumb of favor, at once thinks nature predestined him to be a Congressman. He who can talk soft nonsense for five minutes upon no subjectiat all, feels himself inspired to be a United States Senator; and every fellow who can *almost* calculate the toll upon a barrel of whiskey thinks it is his mission on earth to be Canal Commissioner—whether the people are willing or not.

The scramble for office gets to be such disreputable business by this evil, that it is but very seldom a man of any character will engage in it. It is at best a very precarious and slavish business, and the pursuit of politics as a means of livelihood destroys many more men than it makes. It introduces men into associations and habits which but too often have an unfortunate and dangerous result. It begets a spirit of adventurous recklessness which goes very far to undermine stability and firmness of character. And, finally, the highest prizes in the desparate game are positions of temptation, and places where a thousand greedy parasites swarm around, to wear out life with annoying petitions for wrong. Two Presidents of vigorous constitution, to whom this kind of leeching was a new treatment, sank to the grave under the infliction of such a life.

It is a mistaken ambition to believe that political eminence alone is fame. Every pursuit of life is alike honorable and alike eminent. Science, literature and art are wide open fields for the labor of the brightest genius and the attainment of the highest honors. Demagogues are cunning flatterers to get political tools for their dirty work, and are very profuse in promises. They can discover a rich hidden talent in each of their parasites, and praise ever, while they find profit. Many, too many a confiding dupe has learned this game in the experience of a bankrupted fortune and a ruined character; and lamented over his folly and indiscretion in poverty and disgrace.

☞ A WISE ONE—A writer in the London Daily *News* shows his *intimate* acquaintance with the United States by calling "Philadelphia the capital of a slave state," holds the inhabitants as "southerners," and says that "to argue with them on the subject of slavery is impossible." The schoolmaster cannot be abroad in England.

☞ We see that the Buffalo papers call our city the "independent Borough of Erie." Gentlemen, this won't do! We *are* a *city*. We've a Mayor, six select and twelve common councilmen. We've a railroad, and the prospect of half-a-dozen "more of the same sort,"—we've plank roads, and more making; we've steam boat runners, and *railroad runners, and stage runners; fast horses* and fast men, gamblers, loafers and dandies: and last, though not least, *Kossuth hats*, feathers and all. Gentlemen, you must make the *amends honorable!* We *are* a city.

☞ CAPITAL CONVICTION FOR ARSON.—At a late term of the Circuit Court in Geneseo, New York, James Welden was convicted of arson in the first degree.—He was indicted for setting fire to a dwelling-house in Dansville. He was sentenced to be hung on the 9th of April next. He confessed his guilt and implicated a man named Johnston as an accomplice. Several fires occurred in Dansville, in the month of December, 1850, which were supposed to be caused by this incendiary.

☞ THE LAST IDEA.—A lady in the Boston *Transcript*, after writing most eloquently on the trials of housekeeping, arising from bad servants, suggests a plan for the establishment of a "School for Cooks." This is the last Yankee Notion; and from our own experience, we are not prepared to say it is not a good one.

☞ The West Chester *Republican* says the Democracy of the country are rapidly becoming satisfied that Gen. *Scott* will be the whig candidate for the Presidency, and that it will take our *strongest man to beat him; and the* signs of the times are beginning to indicate, very plainly that that man is the Hero of San Jacinto—whose life, Jackson character, devoted patriotism, and noble deeds, would rally around him in overwhelming numbers, *the masses of the people*.

☞ Those who do not advertise, and there are many business men even in this enlightened age who say it is money thrown away, cannot employ a few moments better than in reading the following:

"At New Orleans a man who had but recently commenced business found his creditors rather too prompt in urging the payment of their little bills. "What is the matter?" he at length asked. "Do you fear me?" "Yes," was the hesitating reply of a modest dun. "Fear me!" he exclaimed, "on what grounds? Has any one said I am not honest?" "No, no," replied the other; "but"—"But what, sir?" "Why, to be candid with you, we have no confidence in your business capacity, seeing you don ot advertise." The man immediately made annual contracts with three papers, and is now in excellent credit, and prospering finely."

☞ A "celebrated Roman Consul" has truly said that many men who have but precious little brains and no *genius, rise in the world*, by aspiring to every station, however high, while many really good and able men, are scarcely ever heard of, on account of their modesty. Impudence goes a great ways in this world.

☞ RAPPING DELUSION.—The Oneida Chief, printed at Clinton, Oneida co. N. Y. says that a family in that place, the members of which have been persuaded by the rappings, has been completely broken up—a mother has left her young children sick and uncared for, and taken up her board, and report says her bed, with one of the masculine spirits. Reports further say that this male rapper, in order to make room for his neighbor's wife, has discarded his own, giving her a written discharge, which he calls a bill of divorce, and that though she still remains in his family, it is in the character of a servant, and not as a wife.

☞ The Louisville Journal speaks of Mr. Clay as a "victim of locofoco slanders." Mr. Clay himself thinks he is the victim of Whigery, which, since the coalition, has elected Harrison and Taylor to the Presidency, and Tyler and Fillmore to the Vice Presidency. The whigs of Kentucky have just nominated Fillmore for another term.

☞ Some of our exchanges tells us that it has been ascertained from the official records at Harrisburgh, that Gv Johnson pardoned during the last seventeen days of his administration, fifty-three convicts confined in the cells of the Eastern and Western Penitentiaries for crimes of every grade, embracing murderers, incendiaries, burglers, counterfeiters, thieves, committers of rape, &c.—One man, arrested for larceny we believe, was pardoned before he was tried!

☞ The New York correspondent of the *Pennsylvanian* says the Webster stock has gone up fifty per cent within the past few days. The Fillmore and Scott "bulls" and "bears," have been "cornered" a little, and unless they do something to offset the operations of the God-like, there is every probability that he will win the day. The tone of the whig press is strongly Marshfieldian. There is fun ahead, if the woolly-heads can only be brought up to "face the music."

☞ The Butler *Herald* says the true secret of Butler Editors getting office, is by their "voting for Democratic men and measures under all circumstances." Perhaps, but we are rather inclined to the belief that the secret is rather more in their playing ready to would-be-great men, and puffing the *Pennsylvanian* and kindred sheets, than in the character of their votes.

☞ They give their paper money hard names in Wisconsin. The Madison Argus speaks of "Richmond's irresponsible red dog, blue pup and sick money paper issues!"

☞ We are under obligations to Gen. Houston, Senators Broadhead, Cooper and Wade, and our members at Harrisburg for Congressional and Legislative favors.

☞ The Indiana Senate has passed a bill to purchase land in Africa, to which the negroes in that State are to be sent.

Harp and Shamrock Benevolent Temperance Society.

Among the many societies of this Society-begetting age, the formation of none has pleased us more that the "*Harp and Shamrock Benevolent Temperance Society*," recently organized in this city. We say it has pleased us, because it is composed of those, and its field of labor is among those, to which very little attention is devoted by the thousand and one other societies already in existence for the amelioration of mankind. The Society we speak of was organized last week, and from the following list of officers, as well as the name, the reader will at once see its field of operation is to be among that long neglected class—the Sons of the Green Isle.

President.—J. W. DUGGAN,
Vice President.—JOHN GRAHAM,
Secretary.—JOHN FERRIER,
Treasurer.—PATRICK MCENTYRE,
Wardens.—PATRICK DONOVAN, ROBT. STEWARD,
Steward.—JOHN SULLIVAN.

That the public may fully understand the aims and objects of the "Harp and Shamrock," we publish, at the request of the Society, the address of its first President; on taking the chair:

GENTLEMEN:—Before I enter upon the duties of Presiding Officer of this Association, permit me to tender to you my sincere thanks for the very flattering regard you have evinced for me in electing me your first President; thus confiding to my guardianship the nursery and advancement of our infant society.

This token of your esteem, gentlemen, becomes the more prominent when I see before me so many others whose capability and talents so far transcend any pretensions in which I may indulge, as to completely overshade and obscure the most glowing aspirations which my vanity may prompt or ambition call forth.

But the advancement of a society like this depends not so much upon superior talents as it does upon exertion and perseverance. No, gentlemen, exertion and perseverance must be our motto—we must all exert ourselves, collectively and individually, and, we must persevere too in our exertion—we must use every fair and honorable means to promote the general good, for this, and this only, is the true object of true benevolence, and of unfeigned philanthrophy. We must be watchful that our conduct abroad be of such a character as to bring no scandal on the society, and that our general demeanor be such as to secure respect from the good and virtuous, while it renders harmless the malevolence and malignity of the poison breathing slanderer. By such a course we are sure to prosper, and I am full in the confidence that on your part there will be no lack of duty.

Our beginning is indeed fair—fair as the morning sun bursting from the eastern horizon—absorbing in its *golden beams the dewy* shrouds of the sleeping vale—and as his rays become stronger and more refulgent the nearer he approaches his noontide glory, so, too, shall we, I trust, become stronger and more conspicuous as we *progress in Temperance, Virtue, and Morality*. Yes, our beginning is fair, and when years shall have rolled over us, may the "Harp and Shamrock" still continue to flourish, unblighted by internal discord and unscathed by external prejudices—May harmony and courtesy be the presiding genius of its members—and may He who cares for the young raven and the shorn lamb, protect and *defend us all from* the burning temptations of the *evil spirit of intemperance*.

Allow me, Gentlemen, to congratulate you on your choice of my brother officers; the selection is indeed good, and shows on your part, discrimination and judgment.—Had the society been four times its present number you could not have chosen better, and with such a board, and your own ardor to aid and promote the general good, I trust and hope that the confidence you have placed in me, in calling me to preside over your affairs, shall not be abused.

In conclusion, let me endeavor to impress upon your mind, the necessity of maintaining toward each other *respect and good will*, the common courtesies of life, as well as mutual interests, demand from all men a reciprocal interchange of civility and respect, how much more then should this refined and elevating feeling be cherished by you whose interests are here common and equal—aye, more than all by you whose first impulses of nature's loveliness have been drawn from the same enchanting, bewitching scenery with which she has so lavishly adorned your ever beloved, and oft dreamed of Native Isle.

I beseech you, then, by the remembrance of those early scenes and early loves—by those still green spots "on memery's waste" to promote and cherish this feeling of *good will*. Respect *yourselves* and others will respect you also—be as you ought to be, and as your very nature prompts you to be; that is, noble, generous, and magnanimous; despise those petty bickerings, those baneful dissensions which have been the curse of our unhappy fatherland, and let us have the proud satisfaction of showing to those who may wish the downfall of our society that "*united we stand*" and, united we mean to stand.

Accept again, gentlemen, my thanks for your partiality, and may the now infant "Harp and Shamrock" become the conspicuous representative of Ireland's virtue, and Ireland's glory in the infant city of Erie.

☞ A report came over the House line the other night that Louis Napoleon, Prince President of the French Republic, had met his death by the hand of an assassin, but no such report reached us in our regular Telegraph dispatch.

New Advertisements.

PREPARING FOR ACTION.

THE *undersigned* has, with joy to himself and no doubt to the gratification of his customers bid farewell to that "dark store" and thrown both his stores into one, which he has fitted up in the *most magnificent* and costly style, rivaling in beauty and splendor any store west of Sunrise and where in a few days will be exhibited one of the most fashionable and richest stock of goods ever exhibited in this market and which will be sold at a very low figure, just to christen the new Store.

Erie, March 6, 1852.—47 MOSES KOCH.

STRAY STEER.

BROKE into the enclosure of the subscriber living in Harborcreek township near Bewley's Tavern, on the 23d ult., a good sized red steer, with a white spot in its face, and no artificial mark, supposed to be about four years old. Whoever owns said steer is requested to call prove property pay charges and take it away.

March 6, 1852. MARY STINSON.

A Book for Farmers.

"WALKS and Talks of an American Farmer in England," being No. 3, of Putnam's Semi-Monthly Library, Just received at the Cheap Book store, No. 5, State street.

Erie, March 6, 1852. DURLIN & SLOAN.

Rags! Rags!! Rags!!!

ANY quantity of rags wanted at the Cheap Book store, No. 5 State street. March 6. DURLIN & SLOAN.

NOTICE.—In pursuance of a resolution of the Board of Directors of the Chautauque County Mutual Insurance Company. Notice is hereby given that an assessment has been made of *nine per cent*, upon all premium notes of the Company in force on the 2d day of January, 1852, and that members thereof are required to pay their assessments to Simon Hart, *Treasurer, at his office in* the village of Fredonia, on the 25th day of March next.

413. F. S. EDWARDS, Sec'y.

A Valuable Medical Work.

A POPULAR *Cyclopedia of Modern Domestic Medicine*, comprising every recent improvement in medical knowledge; with a plain account of Medicines in common use. By KEITH JERAY, M. D. To which is prefixed by the Editor, Popular Treatises upon Anatomy, Physiology, Surgery, Dietetics and the Management of the Sick, designed for general use.

This work is highly recommended by all our best read and regular physicians, and may now be had at a *reduced price* at

Erie March 6. DURLIN & SLOAN'S, Book Store.

CO-PARTNERSHIP NOTICE.

I HAVE taken WM. P. HAYES, into co-partnership with me in the Merchantile Business. The business will be conducted hereafter under the firm of Tibbals & Hayes.

Erie, March, 3, 1852. C. M. TIBBALS.

N. B.—All persons knowing themselves indebted to me by Note or Account, will please make immediate settlement, as it is positively necessary to have my old business closed up. A word to be wise is sufficient. March 6, '52—33. C. M. TIBBALS.

TO THE PUBLIC.

HAVING this day admitted as a partner, Mr. A. J. FULLER, (who has been, for the past eight years, in the extensive Manufacturing and Importing House of Messrs Nichols, Goodwin & Co., New York,) the business will be continued under the firm of STOCKTON & FULLER, at the old stand, second door east of Brown's New Hotel, Park Row. Thankful for past favors, I hope you will bestow the same liberal patronage on the new firm, assuring you that all that is possible shall be done to give satisfaction to my customers.

Erie, March 1, 1852.—13 H. P. STOCKTON.

SPRING GOODS.

LOOMIS & Co. have received this day, Silver Plated and Plain Dining and Dessert Forks, Spoons, beautiful patterns Napkin Rings, Pickle Forks, Fruit Knives, splendid Bracelets and other Jewelry, nearly opposite Brown's New Hotel, State St.

Erie, March 4, 1852. 43.

DISSOLUTION.

THE co-partnership heretofore existing between D. B. Derby and A. Monfort, under the name and style of Derby and Monfort, is this day dissolved by mutual consent. The books notes and accounts of the firm are in the hands of D. B. Derby for collection. D. B. DERBY.

Erie, March 2, 1852. A. MONFORT.

THE Gunsmithing business in all its branches will be continued at the old stand, by the subscriber, who will be happy to wait upon the old customers of the late firm, and such new ones as may favor him with a call.

Erie, March 6, 1852. 1643. D. B. DERBY.

ADAM SMITH'S

New Line for California,

DIRECT FOR SAN FRANCISCO.

The Splendid 1,800 tons, coppered and copper fastened New Clipper Ship.

"NORTH AMERICAN,"

Will sail from her pier No. 5 East River on Saturday, the 22d day of March, for passengers only.

This ship is entirely new, and is fitted for passengers in the most commodious manner. The between decks is 213 feet long and 40 feet wide, and the whole is fitted up as a saloon.

State Rooms, $200 Berths, $150.

Passengers going by this ship will, after the 17th of March, be permitted to go on board, and will be free from expenses until they arrive at San Francisco. The proprietor of this ship confidently expects to go from port to port in 90 days, as she will not take any freight except small lots for passengers. It will be remembered that all ships going from here have been very heavily laden, which makes a vast difference in their sailing time.

Extra accommodations have been fitted up for the convenience of families. An experienced Surgeon will be on board, who will attend the passengers without charge.

☞ Another vessel of the same class will follow about the 15th of April. For passage apply to

March, 6, 1852. ADAM SMITH 28 Front St., New York.

News by Telegraph and Mail.

By SPEED'S LINE—Office in Williams' Block.

NEW YORK, March 4,—3 P. M.

Arrival of the Steamer America.

HALIFAX, March 4.

The *steamer* America left Liverpool Saturday P. M. February 21st., arrived here last night.

The principle feature of the political news by this arrival is the *resignation of the Russell Ministry* in England.

The *resignation of the Russell Ministry* was wholly unexpected and had created the most intense excitement. No new Cabinet had been formed and all was conjecture as to whom the Queen would call to her assistance.

The news from France and from the continent generally, presents no feature of exciting interest.

ARRIVAL OF THE "FRANKLIN."

NEW YORK, March 2.

The "Franklin" left Cowes at 1 A. M. on the 19th, and brings 55 passengers, a valuable cargo of French Goods, and $191,000 in specie.

Flour at Mark Lane nominally the same as at last quotations. Cotton market active and prices firm. Letters by this steamer quote a decline of 1d to 3d on Flour and wheat, and 6d on flour. Corn advanced 6d with brisk demand.

The "Artic" arrived at Liverpool, after the short passage of 9 days, and 18 hours.

ENGLAND.—The Daily "News" hints that some great movement may be expected by the 22d of February.—Orders have been given to the various Generals to be prepared. Lord John Russel brought forward his measure to provide for the National Defence, on the 16th.—It is proposed to add to the Army some 8,000 men, about as many as have been sent to the Cape, troops of the line, and to enrol for Militia, one fifth of all the men in the Great Britain, between the